

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims currently pending in the application, before entry of this Amendment. All pending claims currently stand rejected.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on August 30, 2006 have been accepted.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering and initialing the Information Disclosure Statements filed August 30, 2006 and November 8, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 4, as previously presented, contained allowable subject matter. Applicant has rewritten claims 3 and 4 in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1, and thus these claims should be indicated as being allowed.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claim 1. Claims 2 and 5-7 have been amended to depend from claim 3. Applicant also adds the limitation from claim 3 into claim 8, which is believed to put claim 8 in condition for allowance.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant adds claims 9-18. Claims 9-11 mirror claims 5-7 but depend from claim 8 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Claims 12-14 mirror claims 5-7 but depend from claim 4 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Claim 15 corresponds to claim 8 but with the feature from claim 4 that the

Examiner found to be allowable. Claims 16-18 mirror claims 5-7 but depend from claim 15 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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